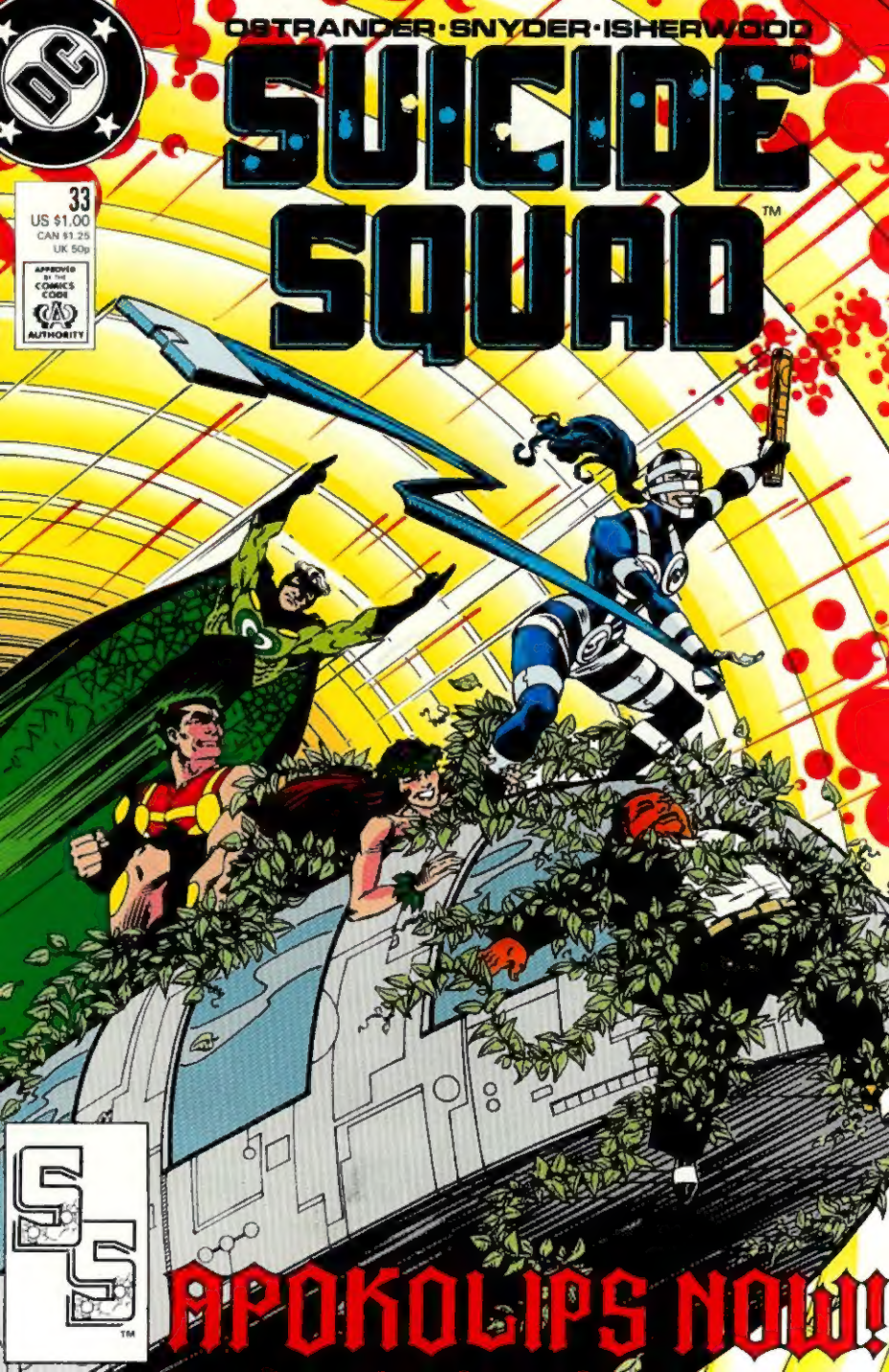
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INTO the ANGRY PLANET

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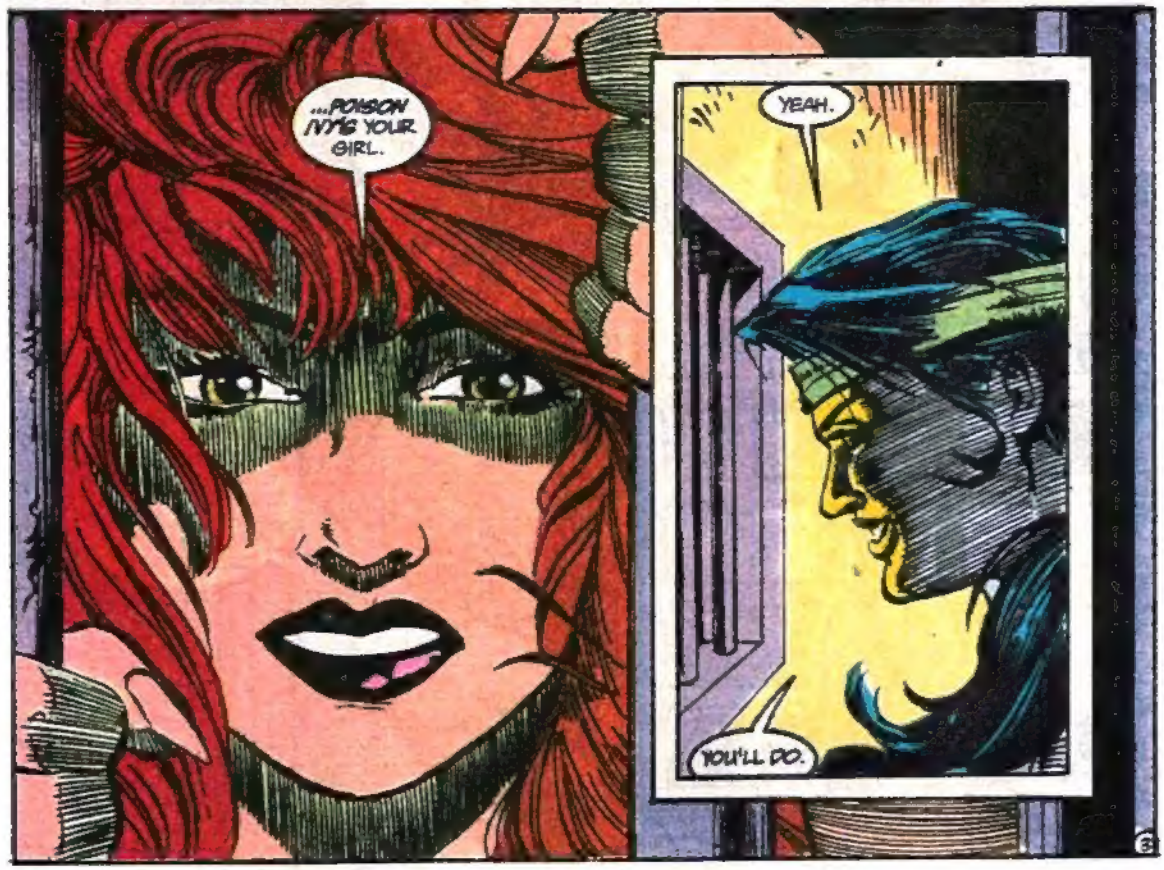
DEADSHOT.
YEAH?
YOU KNOW ME.
YEAH.
YOU READY TO GO TO WORK AGAIN?
YOU GOT SOMETHIN' NEEDS KILLIN'?
IS IT DANGEROUS?

I WAS WRONG.
YOU'RE NOT READY.

ME.

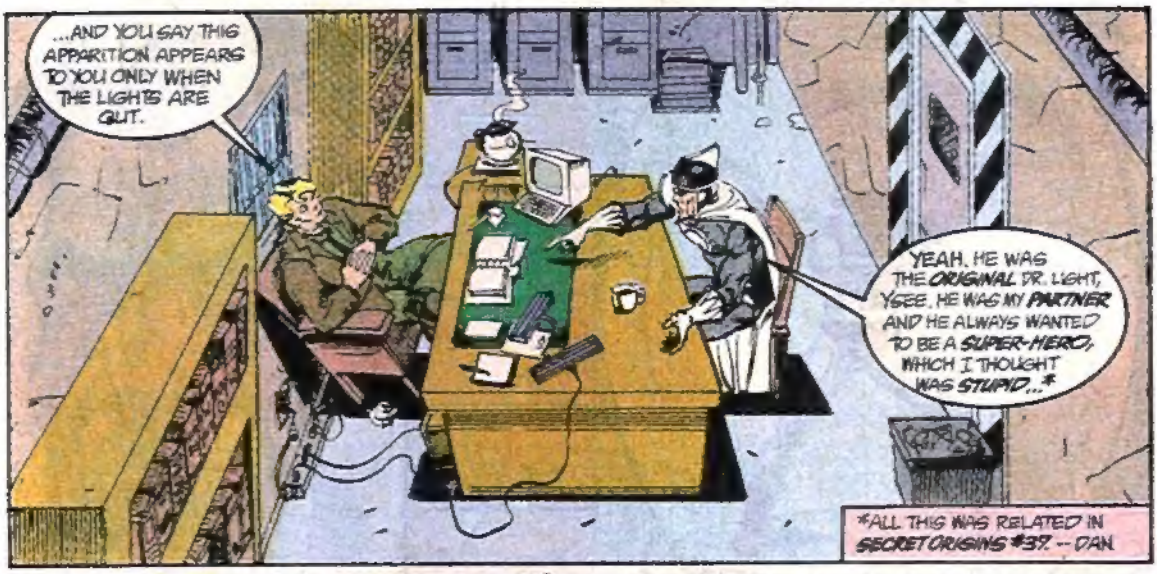
I'M READY.
WHATEVER IT IS...WHEREVER IT IS...SO LONG AS IT'S OUT OF HERE...


...POISON IVY'S YOUR GIRL.
YEAH.
YOU'LL DO.

1607160
I KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE BECOME, KOBRA. YES, I HAVE HEARD THE ECHOES OF THOSE WHO WHISPERED TO YOU.
THE AVATAR OF CHAOS--CHOSEN TO BRING IN THE KALI-YUGA, THE AGE OF CHAOS. OH YES. I KNOW.

I AM A THUGEE. WITH EACH DEATH I GIVE KALI, I SEEK TO STAY THE KALI-YUGA A THOUSAND YEARS.
WE ARE NATURAL ENEMIES, YOU AND I, AS ARE THE SNAKE AND THE MONGOOSE.
YES.
YOU WILL KILL ME, IF YOU CAN.
YES.
I AWAIT YOUR ASSAULT.
SOON, LORD OF EVIL.
SOON.

HOLD YOUR HORSES! I'M COMING!
KNOCK KNOCK
YES?
KRAK!
KRASH!
WE'LL NEED YOUR TOXINS TO KEEP HER AND BARDA UNCONSCIOUS UNTIL WE REACH OUR FINAL DESTINATION.
WHAT IS OUR FINAL DESTINATION? AND ARE WE TAKING ANY MEN ALONG? MORE FUN TO PARTY IF THERES A HUNKY BODY OR TWO.
OH, THERE'LL BE MEN. OR WHAT PASSES FOR MANHOOD ON THIS PITIABLE MUDBALL.
AS FOR OUR FINAL DESTINATION --I'M GOING HOME.


...AND YOU SAY THIS APPARITION APPEARS TO YOU ONLY WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE OUT.
YEAH. HE WAS THE ORIGINAL DR. LIGHT, YSEE. HE WAS MY PARTNER AND HE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A SUPER-HERO, WHICH I THOUGHT WAS STUPID...*
*ALL THIS WAS RELATED IN SECRET ORIGINS #37. -- DAN

SO YOU ESSENTIALLY STOLE THE COSTUME AND POWERS TO BECOME A SUPER-VILLAIN AND ACCIDENTALLY CAUSED HIS DEATH ALONG THE WAY.
WE WENT THROUGH ALL THAT. ARTHUR, I'D LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING POSSIBILITY.

THE APPARITION IS NOT REAL...
HE IS! HE IS!
ONLY IN THAT HE'S A PROJECTION OF YOUR OWN GUILT AND FEAR. THAT HE REPRESENTS SOMETHING YOU FEEL THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE BECOME, THAT PART OF YOU WANTS TO BE.

OH, PLEASE! I CAN JUST SEE ME DRESSING UP IN SPANDEX, DOING GOOD DEEDS FOR NOTHING. LIKE THOSE OTHER DWEEBS!
INSTEAD YOU DRESS UP IN SPANDEX AND GET BEATEN UP BY THOSE DWEEBS!
ARTHUR, CHILDREN BEAT YOU UP.

WELL, I KILLED THE LAST ONE.
MAYBE... MAYBE I'M THE DWEEB, HUH?
UM.

ENGAGE.
ERRNNN
KRAKLE KRAKLE
GYAAAAH!!!
FWA-BOOM!
OHHHHHH...!
YOU WON'T GET HOME THAT WAY.

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THERE'S NO WAY I CAN GET BACK TO META! THE TECHNOLOGY ON THIS BLASTED PLANET IS SO LIMITED...!
I CAN GET YOU HOME.
FINE. WAVE YOUR MAGIC WAND AND DO IT.
IT'S NOT A MAGIC WAND--IT'S CALLED A MEGA-ROD.
AND I CAN'T SEND YOU DIRECTLY HOME. YOU STILL CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE.
YOU CAN FROM MY DIMENSION.
WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?
DON'T. BELIEVE YOUR EYES. TELL ME THAT THE MEGA-ROD WAS CONSTRUCTED USING THIS DIMENSION'S TECHNOLOGY.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME--IN RETURN FOR HELPING ME GET BACK TO META?
FOR WHAT I'M PLANNING I NEED AN ASSAULT TEAM. YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME RECRUIT THEM.

"FOR THE MOST PART THEY WON'T BE VOLUNTEERS."

PART OF THE PROBLEM WITH THE OLD SECURITY BRACELET WAS IT ONLY GAVE YOU [illegible] YER FELONS ARM OFF.

THIS NEW BRACELET IS MADE FROM A HIGH-DENSITY PLASTIC THAT'LL FIT RIGHT UNDER MOST PEOPLE'S CLOTHES.

IT STILL HAS THE EXPLOSIVE, BUT NOW IT ALSO PACKS AN ELECTRIC JOLT LIKE A CATTLE PROD. NOW YOU CAN GIVE YER PROBLEM CHILD UP TO TWO WARNINGS BEFORE YOU DETACH A LIMB.

I LIKE IT. STANDARD ISSUE --A.S.A.P., OKAY, MURPH?

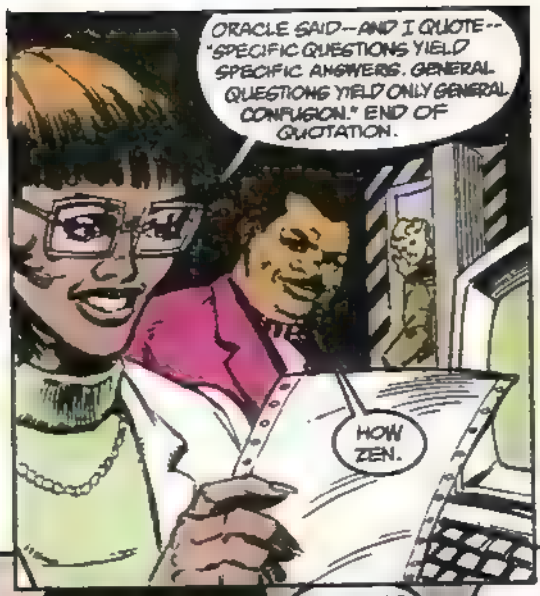
SO, MAC -- WHAT'S THE PROGRESS ON VERTIGO. HE USABLE?

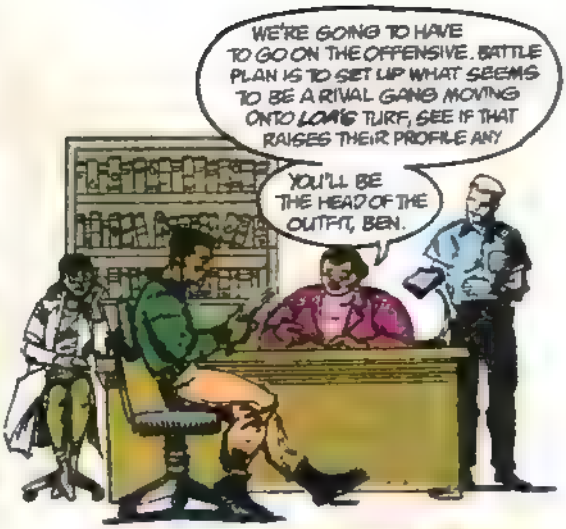
MARGINAL. HE'S OUT OF DEPRESSION AND INTO APATHY

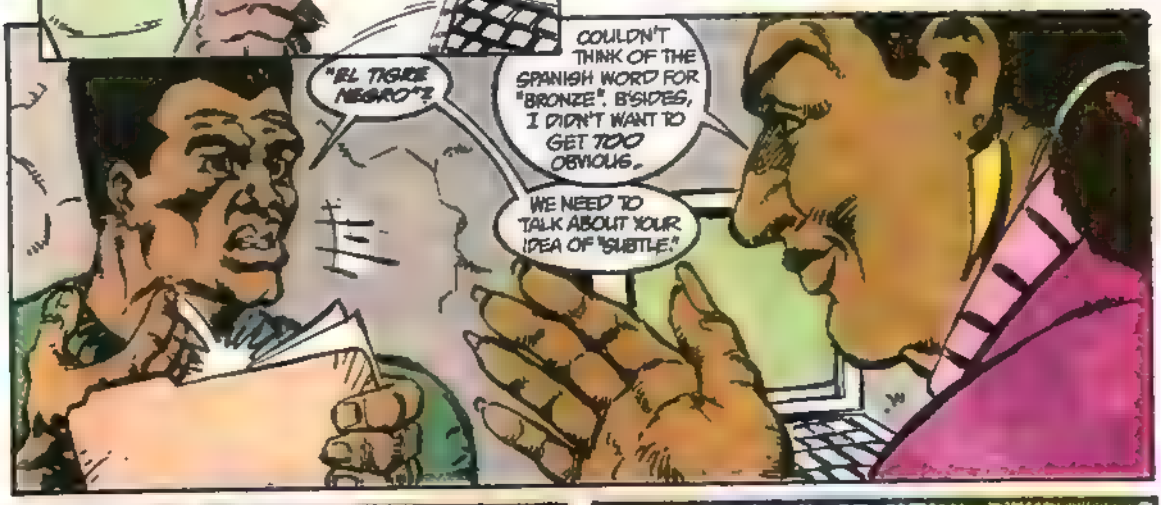
MY WORRY IS WHEN HE SLIPS INTO THE MANIC CYCLE. GET HIM GOING AND YOU MIGHT HAVE TO BLOW OFF HIS ARM TO STOP HIM

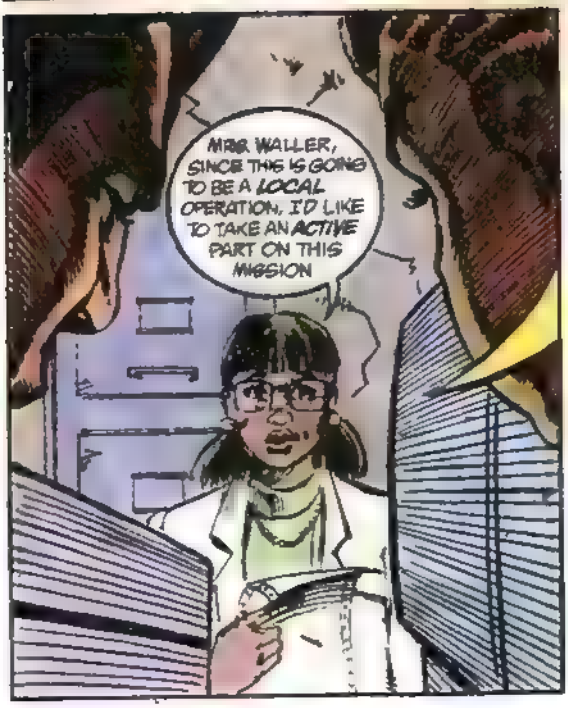
USE VERTIGO WITH CAUTION. GOT IT?

FLO, ORACLE HAVE ANYTHING ON LOA?


ORACLE SAID--AND I QUOTE--"SPECIFIC QUESTIONS YIELD SPECIFIC ANSWERS. GENERAL QUESTIONS YIELD ONLY GENERAL CONFUSION." END OF QUOTATION.
HOW ZEN.


WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO ON THE OFFENSIVE. BATTLE PLAN IS TO SET UP WHAT SEEMS TO BE A RIVAL GANG MOVING ONTO LOW'S TURF, SEE IF THAT RAISES THEIR PROFILE ANY.
YOU'LL BE THE HEAD OF THE OUTFIT, BEN.

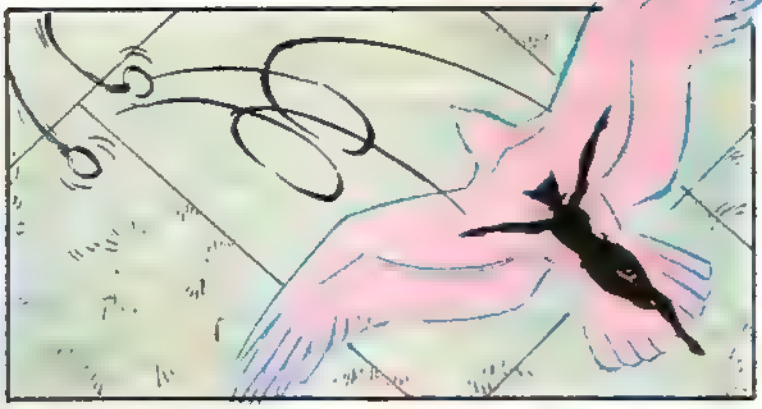

"EL TIGRE NEGRO"?
COULDN'T THINK OF THE SPANISH WORD FOR "BRONZE". B'SIDES, I DIDN'T WANT TO GET TOO OBVIOUS.
WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT YOUR IDEA OF "SUBTLE."

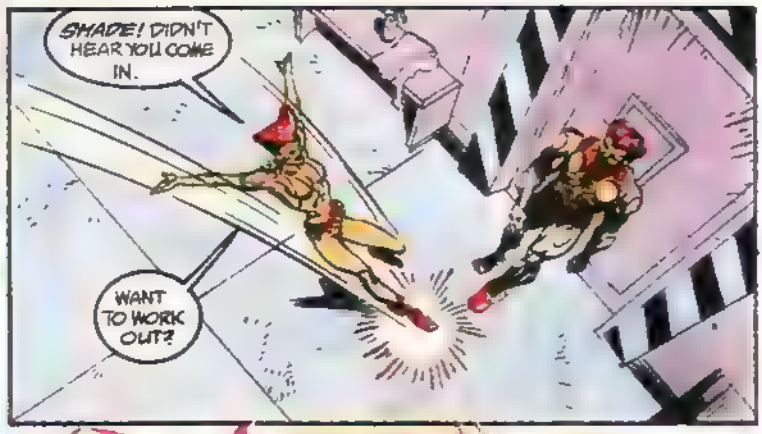

MRS. WALLER, SINCE THIS IS GOING TO BE A LOCAL OPERATION, I'D LIKE TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART ON THIS MISSION

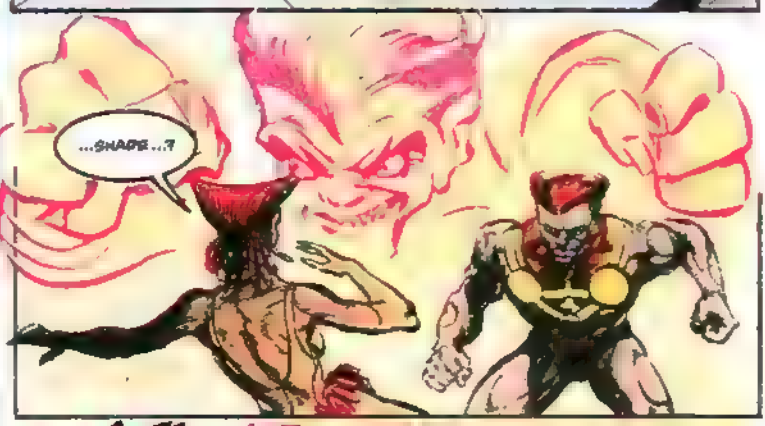
YOU HAVE ONE--IN MISSION CONTROL.
NO! I MEAN--IN THE FIELD!

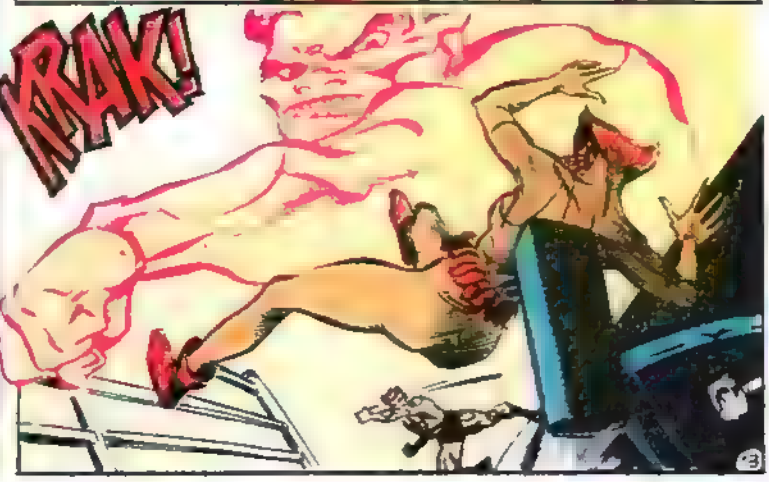
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, GIRL, AND I KNOW WHY AND YOUR REASON HAS NO PLACE IN THE FIELD!
YOU ARE A VALUED MEMBER OF THIS TEAM STICK WITH WHAT YOU'RE GOOD AT END OF DISCUSSION!
YOUNG LOVE! HUH!
GIVES ME BUNIONS UP MY BACKSIDE
FLO.
THAT MISSION I TALKED TO YOU ABOUT? IT'S HERE.
STILL GAME?
I'M READY FOR ANYTHING!
GOOD
I PUT SOME APPROPRIATE CLOTHES IN YOUR ROOM. CHANGE AND MEET ME BY THE SHUTTLE TRAIN ON THE AIR-FIELD SIDE IN TEN MINUTES

"AND, FLO? NOT A WORD TO ANYONE."

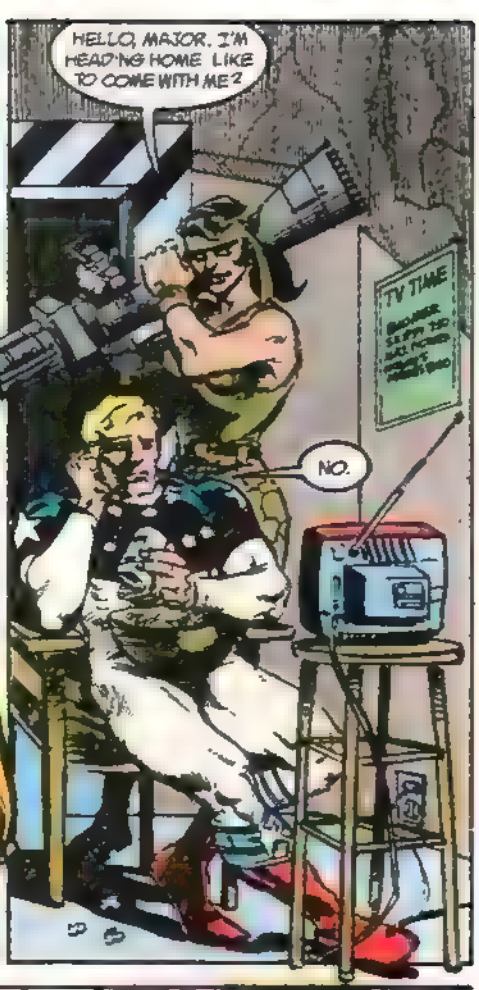


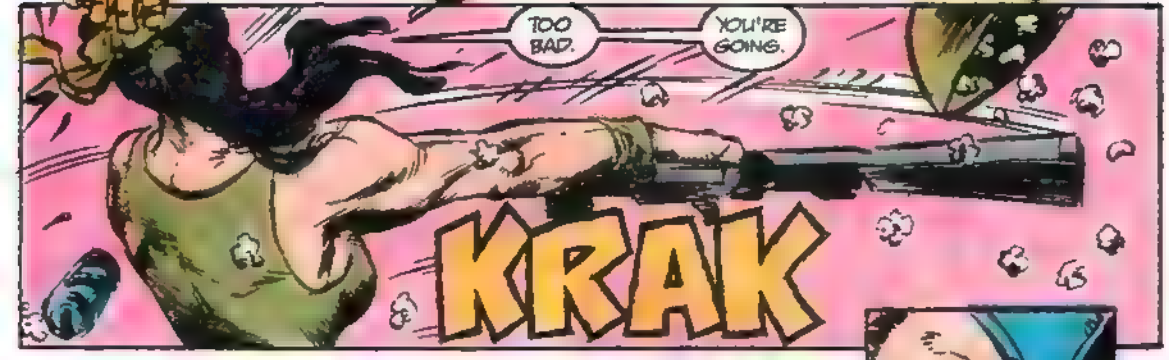

SHADE! DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN.
WANT TO WORK OUT?

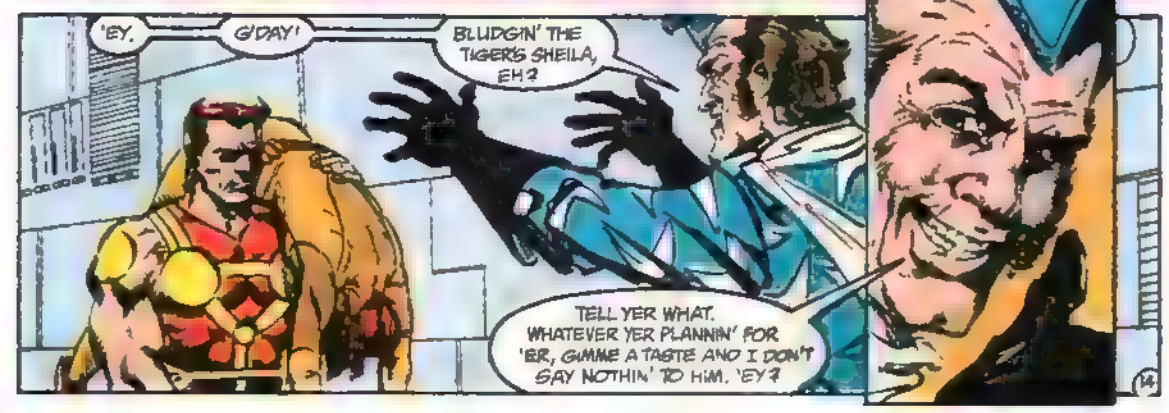

...SHADE...?


KRAK!

I'M SORRY, VIXEN WHAT I'VE DONE IS DIS-HONORABLE.
I SWEAR NO HARM WILL COME TO ANY OF YOU. BUT MY ONLY HOPE OF GETTING BACK TO META IS TO HELP DUCHESS FIRST!


HELLO, MAJOR. I'M HEAD'NG HOME LIKE TO COME WITH ME?
TV TIME
NO.


TOO BAD.
YOU'RE GOING.
KRAK

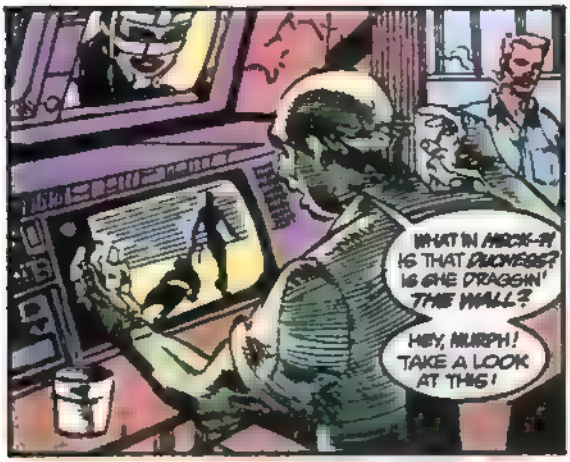

'EY.
G'DAY!
BLUDGIN' THE TIGER'S SHEILA, EH?
TELL YER WHAT. WHATEVER YER PLANNIN' FOR 'ER, GIMME A TASTE AND I DON'T SAY NOTHIN' TO HIM. 'EY?

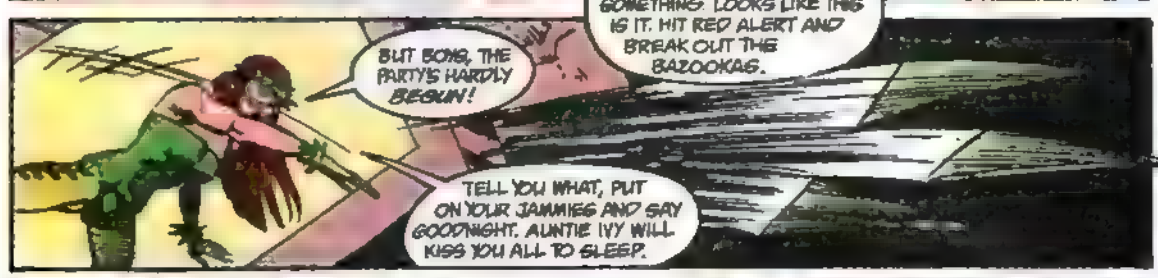
ERK!
WHAM!

GET IN COSTUME, COUNT. I'M GOING ON A PRIVATE MISSION. I'M TAKING YOU WITH ME.

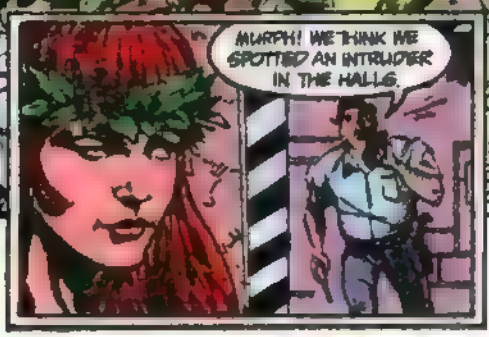
WHY NOT?

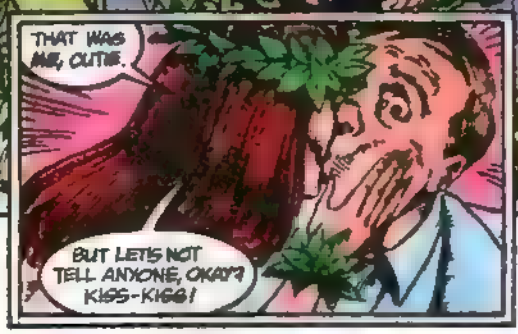
WHIIRRRR
CRAK!





DREAM OF ME, BOYS-- NICE, JUICY DREAMS.



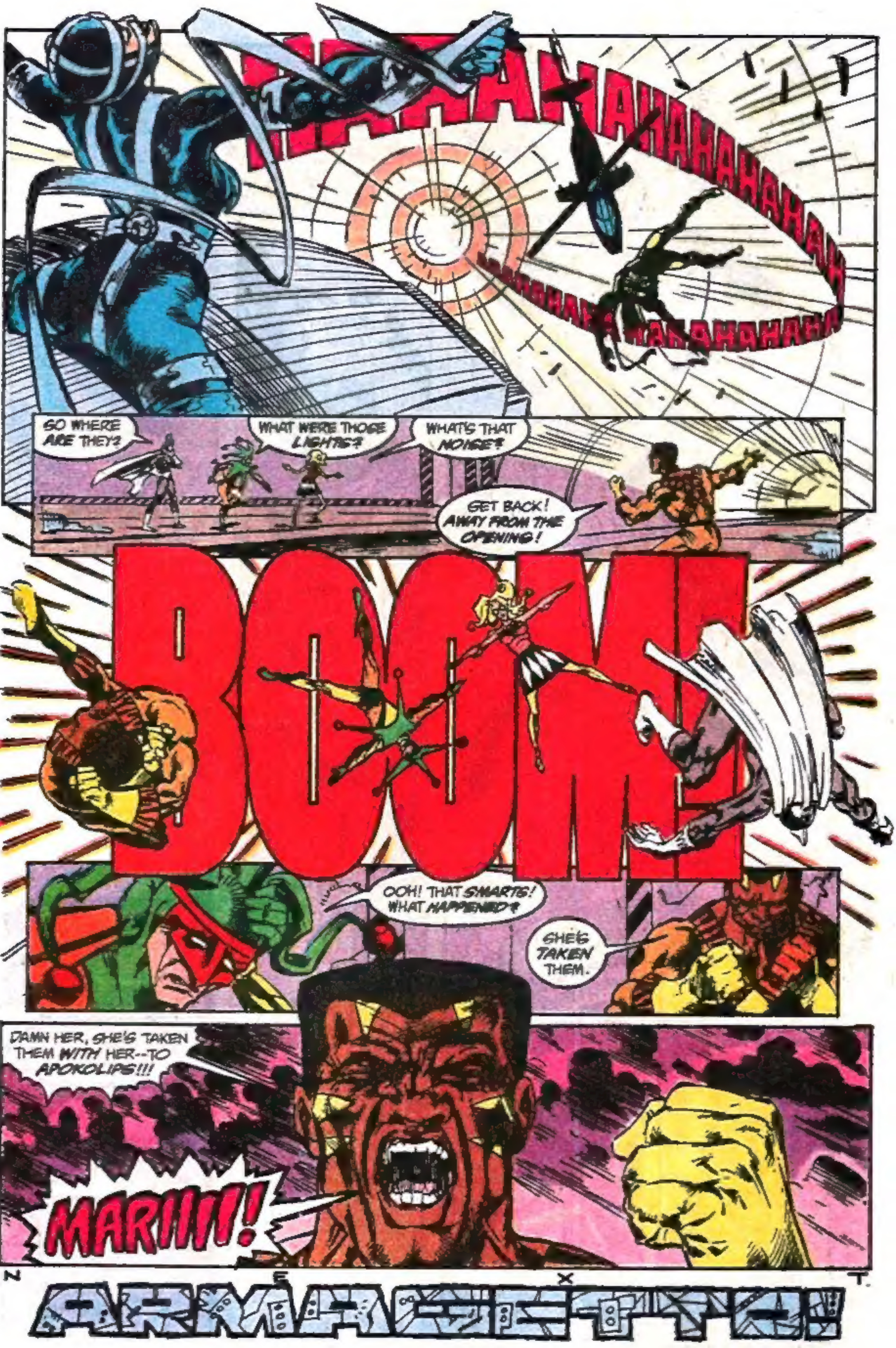


I DON'T KNOW WHAT SCARES ME MORE! THAT THEY'VE ALREADY LEFT OR THAT I'M ON TIME!
SH UUUUUUU!!!
THANK HEAVENS, I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'D...
SLUMBER PARTY, GIRL
OOOHHH!
...LEFT ME BEHIND?..
18

YOU'RE TAKING HER?!
WHY?!
A GIFT FOR MY GRANNY.
ACTIVATE THE AMPLIFIER I GAVE YOU. HERE'S WHERE WE ADD THE FINAL MEMBERS TO OUR ASSAULT TEAM.
WHO'S THAT? SHADE? AND IS THAT DUCHESS? AND THEY GOT COUNT OOPSY-DAISY WITH 'EM.
THIS LOOKS STRANGE. I THINK MAYBE I'LL GIVE BELLE REVE A DINGLE.
BRISCOE
WANT SOMETHING?
YOU.
WHUMP!
KRESH!

VERTIGO! COVER OUR RETREAT! SHADE, TRIGGER THAT ANTI-GRAV FIELD! WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!
MOVE IT!
BRUDDA BRUDDA
YAAAAAH!
BRUDDA BRUDDA
HOLD ON! THE RIDE'S GOING TO GET NICE AND ROUGH!

BELLE REVE! THIS IS YEAGER! DUCHESS HAS GONE BERSERK AND IS HEADED YOUR WAY VIA THE SHUTTLE!
WAIT! WHERE'S THE OTHERS?!
SEEMS DUCHESS ALREADY HAS THEM ON THE SHUTTLE! NOW MOVE YOUR BUTT! THEY'LL BE HERE ANY SECOND!
TELL ME: DOES YOUR PLAN HAVE ANOTHER STAGE OR DO WE JUST DIE HERE?
YOU MAY DIE SOON, WORM--
--BUT IT WON'T BE THE WAY YOU THINK!
BOOM TUBE!
BOOM
21


HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH
SO WHERE ARE THEY?
WHAT WERE THOSE LIGHTS?
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
GET BACK! AWAY FROM THE OPENING!
BOOM!
OOH! THAT SMARTS! WHAT HAPPENED?
SHE'S TAKEN THEM.
DAMN HER, SHE'S TAKEN THEM WITH HER--TO APOKOLIPS!!!
MARIIIII!
N E X T
ARMAGETTO!

SUICIDE NOTES

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L-5102

Dear Squad,

When I heard about plans for *The Janus Directive* crossover series, I was skeptical. The multiple title crossover series idea, which also sometimes involves a separate mini-series, has been done to death lately, especially by DC and Marvel. After being very bored by MILLENNIUM I've come to ignore these crossovers, or at least the mini-series. I've decided not to buy issues of books I don't normally buy, unless it looks interesting on its own. With *The Janus Directive* I got lucky. It's not a story sweeping the DC line, and so when I heard which books would be involved I found out that of the 11 parts only one was a book I don't buy regularly—that's FIRESTORM (#86)—but I have bought the book in the past, and don't mind buying one extra issue. So when you're planning these crossovers in the future, it would be nice to see this sort of thing happen. Part of the reason I buy the other books is that they are interrelated in some ways. A crossover was inevitable.

So far *The Janus Directive* has been interesting. Someone is trying to play government agencies against each other, and shortly after a presidential election, too, when some branches are undergoing changes. It's a good time to strike. The wild goose chase fits the theme of SUICIDE SQUAD and helped introduce the Force of July to the story.

Bronze Tiger has proven himself a capable field leader in this issue, so any doubters should be convinced. The panned matchups didn't all occur, and this showed in the battles that the Squad won or lost.

As for Checkmate and Peacemaker's attack on Eiling and Megala, I have a question: was that Babylon on the balcony? Is he dead, or did he survive like Eiling? I hope he made it, since he's one of the best supporting characters in comics, and I feel CAPTAIN ATOM would suffer from his loss.

Stephen Cade
339 12 Avenue NW
Calgary, Alberta
Canada

As you have seen by now, yes, it was Babylon and no, he's not dead.

*****

Dear Bob,

I must admit that I'm totally mystified as to where *The Janus Directive* is heading. I suspect that the Wall isn't at all what she seems. Her actions in SS #27 suggest that she's playing her own game instead of the government's. Ah, well, I guess I'll just have to wait and see.

I hope the fact that SUICIDE SQUAD went bi-weekly means that it is pppular. Will there be an annual this year?

As you've used a lot of Outsiders' enemies—the Force of July, the People's Heroes—would you consider bringing back Katana or Black Lightning to join the Squad? I feel that they'd both fit in. Another request: how about getting Manhunter, Nemesis, and Nightshade back? I really miss them.

Gordon A. Craig
Lennoxville, Quebec
Canada

As you can see, Nightshade has tried to distance herself from the Squad but circumstances keep them together. Manhunter has put his distance from the team and Nemesis is out there somewhere, no doubt ready to pop up when least expected. No plans yet for Katana or Black Lightning, either here or in any other title.

Given all the work required to produce our bi-weekly effort, we have no plans for an Annual this year.

*****

Dear Squad Scribes,

Issue #27 was extremely entertaining. I was worried when I heard Luke was leaving the book, but I was also sure Bob Greenberger would find a suitable replacement. I was right. John K. Snyder, besides having a long name, is a solid penciller.

The Janus Directive is exactly the kind of story the Squad is geared toward. Thanks to John Ostrander for ridding DC of more deadwood by having the Squad kick the tar out of the Force of July. They were growing awfully lame. My favorite part of the battle was page 14; now, *there* is some tension.

Of the new members, Count Vertigo seems the most interesting and effective. How about showing us a more battle-worthy Captain Boomerang. He has got to be tougher than page 18 showed. Speaking of that page, Ravan is too cool. Since Dr. Light nailed Sparkler, does this mean he will try for the Titans again? For his sake, I hope not.

John and Bob, I appreciate your collaborative efforts on this, my favorite comic book.

Scott R. Pyle
502 Griffin Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15210

P.S. Kim Yale is doing a fine job. Her influence on the flow of the book is quite favorable.

*****

Dear Editor,

SUICIDE SQUAD #27 was a fairly interesting book. I didn't expect to see the Force of July pop up in any book that wasn't written by Mike Barr. And I must say I was genuinely stunned to see three members of the Force apparently take the trip to the big flag factory in the sky. Abraham Lincoln Carlyle won't be missed. Mayflower's dying was a surprise. And even though I spent two years of OUTSIDERS stories hoping Sparkler would get a spanking, you couldn't help feeling a little sorry for him. Being killed by Dr. Light isn't exactly a good way to die. Hey, what will the neighbors think? It also takes away the temptation to regard Mr. Arthur Light solely as a clown. There's always a chance he might get off a lucky shot.

The Snyder-Marcos art is a little too grim looking, specializing only in dark colors. A thought occurs to me. When Mike Barr created the Force of July, it was his way of sticking it to right-wingers and to express his own opinion that "government-approved" super-heroes will never be as good as the real thing because the very fact that they *do* work for the government doesn't allow them to have as much of a conscience and a free will as "outside" heroes. And after seeing Force of July, Checkmate, Suicide Squad and all the others tearing at each other over false tips, barely viable sources, or just because somebody with a security pass says so—you know Barr was right.

Charles D. Brown
39 Stockton Street
Brentwood, NY 11717

*****

Dear Bob,

Although I feel you segued too quickly into the second chapter, the fast-paced story proved effective nevertheless, becoming one of the more effective Squad missions in recent memory.

I do feel that this storyline began without enough set-up, making the characters' motivations questionable. Yet, it was good to see Bronze Tiger question a steadfast loyalty to Amanda Waller. Much as with Oliver North, following orders is often not in the best interests of the parties. There

appears to be much subterfuge and intrigue, necessary in spy plots in the crossover, more of which I hope to see. I simply wonder if, after all of this is over, will anyone be able to trust anyone else? Deception runs deep, and will destroy trust if following orders becomes a two-edged sword.

The Squad is on the move again, conquering new territory. I think *The Janus Directive* lives up to its promise. In any case, it will finally resolve questions about overlapping government agencies.

Mark Lucas
66 Cleary Court #902
San Francisco, CA 94109

*****

Dear Bob, John, Kim, etc.,

Now that I've seen two issues' worth of John K. Snyder's work on this book, I can safely conclude that the quality of the book hasn't changed. Karl Kesel's inks mesh nicely with Snyder's layouts, as if Luke Whatsisname were still here. Only flaw is that Snyder has a tendency to exaggerate the appearance of certain characters. But if this is the style he's comfortable with, so be it, as long as the book remains entertaining.

About *The Janus Directive*: the best script in the series so far is this issue, #28. The story is moving along rather nicely, thank you, but I do have a complaint or two. Since when does Kobra have ninjas in his employ? He was better off when he didn't try to speak with a forked tongue and had his henchmen garbed in outfits resembling his own. You might say he's lost his bite. Lois Lane isn't going about this the right way. Recklessness isn't her style. To compensate, have her go undercover to get the story she so desperately wants. Shouldn't be much longer before everybody gangs up on Kobra.

I think it's about time King Faraday showed up here. He could've turned up during the Senator Cray mess, but now that he's here, I have a suggestion: have him become a sort of liaison for the Suicide Squad, turning them into an official, government-sanctioned unit. The possibilities are, of course, endless.

Jacob Gilbert
118 4th Street Apt. 1
Troy, NY 12180

The Squad always has been a government-sanctioned unit and now they're publicly known so there's not much more to do there. Faraday will be popping up from time to time and Mike Carlin over at NEW TITANS has a plan for Mr. Faraday as well. As for the Black Adders, while John, Kim, and Paul wanted to take Kobra back to the basics (and ignore Strikeforce Kobra) they also wanted to beef up his followers—hence the birth of the Adders.

*****

Hey, Bob,

SUICIDE SQUAD #28 was excellent, as per usual, but I actually *missed* not seeing Punch and Jewelee this time around.

And that scares me.

Also, since everyone keeps pushing for new members, mark my ballot down in favor of the addition of the Scarecrow into the fold. And bring Deadshot back real soon.

Uncle Elvis
17650 Dawson Road
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

No plans for Jonathan Crane to turn up here, but look for him scaring the tar out of Captain Atom and a pointy-eared guest star in CAPTAIN ATOM #33, and a Who's Who Update on him in DETECTIVE ANNUAL #2, now on sale.

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Dear Bob,

I was amazed at how much story was beautifully handled in only a mere 22 pages of issue #27. Not only was *The Janus Directive* kicked in high gear, the subplot about Lashina was continued.

I thought the decision on page 7 of which Squad member would go against which member of the Force of July was too neat. Sure enough, no one took out the opponent assigned to him. And if asked before this issue which members would kill, I would never have guessed Shade and Dr. Light.

Punch and Jewelee have turned out to be good additions to the book. Not only do they keep up humorous moments, they have proven formidable during a fight. Do they have any other surprises besides the laser bursts?

In SS #28, it appears the non-Squad members were as much the stars of this issue as the few regular characters were. It's amazing how well the dialogue and actions of Black Thorn, Major Force, and Peacemaker were done. It was also nice to have Nightshade in these pages again.

As yet, I haven't a clue as to how this saga will end.

Melissa Page
236 New Salem Loop
Nortonville, KY 42442

*****

Dear Bob,

I just read SS #28 and it was really great! I really loved John K.'s art: it was really slick and it was much better with Karl's inks. John's style is one of the few I've seen that doesn't get lost in Karl's inks. The fact that it doesn't says something about his work: it's unique.

Next, one of the best used characters this issue was Peacemaker. He reminds me somewhat of Deadshot, save for the fact that I don't detect the same nobility in Floyd. I think he could be effective as new team leader. I know that's Ben's spot now but he's been in the second spot so long, it's hard to accept him anywhere else.

I would like to see more character development on Amanda's part. I know there has been quite a bit, but she always confuses me. One minute she is straightening out her daughter's marriage and the next, she's having people killed and not giving it a second thought.

Donnie Matthews
Route 2 Box 614
Ararat, VA 24053

As you have seen in the last two issues, we've done some more exploration of Amanda's character and events next month will show another side entirely. Also, Peacemaker is assigned over with Checkmate, so go look at that title for more of Mr. Smith.

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

We've just arrived on Apokolips and now the time has come to determine once and for all who is destined to lead the Female Furies. Duchess/Lashina reveals all while the Squad also takes the scenic tour of Armagetto and has the fight of their lives. Also, the battle you have been wanting to see—Amanda Waller versus Granny Goodness. Meantime, back on Earth, Bronze Tiger assembles a rescue team and tries to find a way to Apokolips. Will the cavalry arrive in time?

Our editor, Dan Raspler, shamelessly recommends you check out *The Elemental Wars*, a special four-part tale now unfolding in FIRESTORM as our various elemental forces—Swamp Thing, Firestorm, and Red Tornado—confront the new water elemental, NAIAD. John O. and Tom Mandrake have quite a story in store for you.

Until next time, keep smiling!

—Bob Greenberger